Women’s Safety Fund – Applicant Guidance

1. Introduction

The Police and Crime Commissioner is inviting grant applications from organisations seeking funding for projects that relate to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Proposals may focus on improving service quality, capacity or capability for existing services, or delivery of new or pilot projects. This could include projects which strengthen or enhance the services supporting victims and survivors of VAWG in Hertfordshire, projects delivering educational campaigns, or preventative approaches to VAWG.

The Women's Safety Fund is open to grant applications up to the value of £15,000. For project proposals that are above £15,000, the Police and Crime Commissioner invites organisations to complete an Expression of Interest for funding, up to the value of £50,000.

The Police & Crime Commissioner will be making at least £300,000 of funding available for projects delivered until December 2027.

All applications and expressions of interest will be considered on a case-by-case basis against the assessment criteria detailed in this document.

2. Who can apply?

Applications are welcomed from organisations based, or who deliver services, in Hertfordshire.

Organisations can be private, public or third sector. As independent precepting authorities, expressions of interest from local authorities for projects over £15,000 may be required to supply 50% match funding towards their project's cost.

Applicants must:

- Have a governing document or constitution.
- Have a bank account in the organisation's name.

- Operate within Hertfordshire, or demonstrate a clear benefit to Hertfordshire residents.
- Be able to deliver the proposed activity by the 31st December 2027.

3. Funding Available

Small grants

- Up to £15,000 per funding application.
- Organisations are able to submit more than one application, however multiple applications cannot be submitted for the same project.

Larger grants

- Between £15,000 and £50,000 per expression of interest.
- Organisations are able to submit more than one expression of interest, however multiple applications cannot be submitted for the same project.

Funding is limited and submission of an application does not guarantee an award.

The Police and Crime Commissioner reserves the right to award less than the amount requested.

4. What will be funded?

The Women's Safety Fund is open to a range of ideas and initiatives. Projects must align with one or more of the objectives set by the Police & Crime Commissioner:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Making public spaces safer for women
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Supporting victims and survivors
- Building confidence in reporting

Activity should relate to the following VAWG offences: domestic abuse, rape and sexual offences, stalking and harassment, coercive control and economic abuse, online safety and tech enabled VAWG, harmful practices, or more broadly benefit women's safety including in public spaces.

A wide range of activity may be funded in line with these objectives. This could include staffing costs, service delivery, training, physical or digital assets, educational programmes, targeted activities with victim-survivors or perpetrators, service user engagement or public safety activity.

Activity which improves the capacity, quality, capability or reach of services may also be funded as long as funding does not duplicate existing funding streams.

5. What will not be funded?

The Fund will not normally support:

- Any work or project extending beyond 31st December 2027.
- Individuals.
- Political activities or campaigns.
- Religious worship or activities designed to promote a particular faith.
- Retrospective funding for activities already completed.
- Projects outside Hertfordshire with no clear local benefit.
- Statutory responsibilities of public bodies.
- General organisational running costs unrelated to the project.
- Projects that have already secured full funding from another source.
- Projects which duplicate central victim service provision already commissioned by the OPCC.
- Existing staff salaries or increased National Insurance contributions for existing staff.
- Projects or activity that benefit from PCC funding, including from any other Grant Scheme.

6. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Need & Strategic Fit	Does the application demonstrate a genuine local need and support the

	objectives and priorities of the grant scheme?
Impact & Deliverability	Are the proposed outcomes clear and is there confidence the applicant can successfully deliver the project within the proposed timescales?
Costs & Affordability	Are the costs reasonable, proportionate and supported by sufficient.

Grant applications and Expressions of Interest will be scored against the above criteria using a 0–5-point scale.

For Expression of Interests which meet the relevant criteria, the OPCC will request further information and invite organisations for a conversation where appropriate.

Priority will be given to projects which will be fully or partly delivered in the current financial year (1st April 2026 – 31st March 2027).

7. Application Process

Step 1 – Submit an application

Applications open on 25th November 2026. Complete the application form, or expression of interest, and provide any supporting information requested.

Step 2 – Eligibility Check

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) will review applications to ensure eligibility requirements have been met.

Step 3 – Assessment

Eligible applications will be assessed against the published criteria.

Step 4 – Decision

Recommendations will be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for a funding decision.

The Commissioner's decision is final.

For grant awards up to £15,000, the OPCC aims to notify successful applicants within two weeks, where possible.

For expressions of interest for larger funding awards, the OPCC aims to notify successful applicants within three weeks, where possible.

8. Successful Applications

Successful applicants will receive:

- A grant offer letter.
- Funding agreement.
- Payment arrangements.
- Monitoring form.

Funding must be used only for the purposes approved.

Any significant changes to the project must be agreed with the OPCC in advance.

Bidders who have not previously received an award from the Hertfordshire OPCC, will also need to complete supplier set up forms at award stage.

9. Monitoring Requirements

We want monitoring arrangements to remain proportionate to the level of funding awarded.

At the end of the project, organisations will be asked to complete a short monitoring form confirming:

- What activities were delivered.
- How many people benefited.
- What difference the project made.
- Any achievements, photographs, testimonials or case studies.
- Where direct victim support has been provided, additional information may be requested (e.g. demographics of individuals supported, outcome or impact measures demonstrating improved ability to recover or cope). Where this

information is required, the OPCC will endeavour to ensure these data requirements are clear at the time funding is awarded.

The OPCC may request additional information where necessary.

10. Publicity

The OPCC may publish details of successful awards on its website and through other communication channels.

Successful applicants may be asked to acknowledge support from the Women's Safety Fund in project publicity and promotional material where appropriate.

11. Further Information

Questions regarding the Fund should be directed to:

Commissioning, Income Generation & Victim Services team in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire.

Email: grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk